

# **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

**CHARLES DREW HEALTH CENTER**

**CITY/COUNTY, COUNTY, AND DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENTS**

**COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES**

**COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH CENTERS /  
OTHER HEALTH PROVIDERS**

**MEDICAL PERSONNEL**

**NAF MULTICULTURAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**THE NEBRASKA AIDS EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER (AETC)**

**NEBRASKA AIDS PROJECT (NAP)**

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

**NEBRASKA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH / SUBSTANCE ABUSE NETWORKS**

**RYAN WHITE TITLE II AND TITLE III SERVICES**

**TITLE X**

**UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE HEALTH CENTERS**

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER  
(UNMC) HIV CLINIC**

**WESTERN COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES  
RYAN WHITE TITLE III EIS PROGRAM**

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The low morbidity in Nebraska has enabled primary and secondary prevention providers to collaborate more effectively than could be expected in large metropolitan areas. By forming broad, multi-disciplinary partnerships, HHS and various partners can more efficiently identify populations most affected by a particular health problem, determine where resources are most needed, address barriers and gaps in service, generate support for reducing the burden of chronic disease, and identify and share "best practices." The following are brief descriptions of providers and services, which support the prevention continuum, linking primary and secondary activities.

- **Charles Drew Health Center**, one of Nebraska's minority community based organizations, located in the Omaha metro area, provides a variety of health care services for persons, including basic health care, case management, mental health, HIV / STD counseling and testing, and support group services. Services are provided on a sliding fee scale and are offered during a variety of times and locations (satellite clinics) to better serve their clients and the community. Charles Drew collaborates with other minority community based organizations in the Omaha area and holds a significant presence in the faith communities. The health center was awarded a two year Ryan White Title III planning grant in 2001.
- **City/County, County, and District Health Departments** provide services in all 93 counties in Nebraska. There are seven county health departments, one city/county health department, and 17 district health departments. Through the passage of LB 692 in 2001, \$11.4 million was committed over a two-year period to establish multi-county health departments across Nebraska. Seventeen new district health departments have been established. The development of the new district health departments has been success for Nebraska. A variety of services are provided at each department and these community-based agencies play key roles in their regions. Home and community health services, education, immunizations, and nutritional support are offered at many health department sites. TB, STD, HIV counseling and testing, uninsured medical care, dental care, prenatal and well-baby clinics, WIC, and other related services are available in some areas.
- **Community Action Agencies** statewide have proven to be invaluable to the prevention efforts as they provide consistent, stable, key survival services in most communities (emergency housing, weatherization, assistance with utilities, food pantries, clothing, etc.) Many of these agencies provide a base location for services such as WIC, immunizations, well-baby, preparing for kindergarten, teen pregnancy prevention, parent and community education, adult basic education, and ESL (English as a Second Language) programs. Some community action agencies (Panhandle Community Services, Central Nebraska Community Services) are currently providing HIV counseling and testing, and others are positioning their programming to offer the same in the future.

- **Community Based Health Centers/Other Health Providers**, such as Carl T. Curtis Health Center, Ponca Community Health, Urban Indian Health Center, Central Health Center, Creighton Medical Center, Great Plains Regional Medical Center, and the Panhandle Community Service Health Center, are among several specialized community based health centers which provide medical care and treatment to persons in need. Consultants in Infections Disease serve much of Southeast Nebraska. HHS relationship with these agencies continue to grow and the need for reaching patients with multiple and holistic messages is essential when working in prevention. HIV counseling, testing, referral, and general medical care (prenatal care, well-baby checks, immunizations, STD, TB) are among some of the services provided by these health centers and health providers.
- **Medical Personnel (Nurses, Physicians, DOs, PAs)** The Nebraska Infection Control Network (NICN) is an organization whose purpose is to provide infection control education in Nebraska. NICN has and will continue to play an integral part of the diagnosis and treatment for persons with HIV. Each year at the annual NICN conference, HIV / AIDS / STD issues are addressed. All informational mailings are sent to the infection control nurses statewide and to physicians and other medical personnel who have accepted responsibility for keeping updated on prevention efforts. Approximately ten physicians in the state have taken on significant numbers of HIV positive persons as patients and regularly refer them to other prevention / intervention services. In turn, these providers have played key roles for HHS staff and CPG members by serving as sources for information and assistance for prevention work with HIV positive persons and their families.
- **NAF Multicultural Human Development Corporation** is a statewide community based organization primarily serving the Hispanic population and has expertise in working with migrant and seasonal farm workers. NAF has played a significant role in partnering with the community advisory groups, the state prevention and care programs, and other service providers. They offer translation services, have trained bilingual HIV counseling and testing staff, and have staff who have been trained through the American Red Cross Spanish instructor training. NAF has also translated written materials into Spanish for providers.
- **The Nebraska AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC)** conducts targeted, multi-disciplinary education and training programs for health care providers treating persons with HIV/AIDS. The AETC Program increases the number of health care providers who are effectively educated and motivated to counsel, diagnose, treat, and medically manage individuals with HIV infection, and prevent high risk behaviors that lead to HIV transmission. The Nebraska AIDS Education and Training Center offers real-time clinical consultation for health care professionals, educational programs about HIV infection for healthcare professionals, clinical training opportunities at HIV patient care sites, updates to health care professionals on HIV-related treatment and care issues, provides information about HIV service programs and resources, and resources for health professions schools. For information, call 402-559-5392 or toll free 866-632-2437.
- **Nebraska AIDS Project (NAP)** is a statewide, community based AIDS service organization with offices in five of the six NHCP regional advisory group areas. Nebraska AIDS Project offers free confidential or anonymous counseling and testing at four of the five regional offices, located in Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, and Norfolk. Nebraska AIDS Project operates the statewide HIV/AIDS Hotline. Ryan White case managers are located in five of

the six regions and provide services in all six regions. These services include health education and information dissemination, referral to needed health care services and financial assistance, housing assistance, food pantry, support groups, and volunteer programs. Nebraska AIDS Project is represented on five of the six regional advisory groups and the NHCP. Services offered by Nebraska AIDS Project through paid staff and volunteers play a significant role in the HIV prevention and services network. Nebraska AIDS Project operates the Watanabe Wellness Center in Omaha, providing breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday, complimentary therapies, support groups, social activities, and art classes. A mental health professional is available to all of the Nebraska AIDS Project offices. Prevention programs are designed to reach targeted populations at increased risk for HIV infection. These populations include, but are not limited to, men who have sex with men, women, youth, communities of color, and high risk heterosexuals. These interventions are conducted on the individual, group, and community levels. Nebraska AIDS Project makes referrals to providers throughout the state and nation. Other providers, including physicians, community action agencies, drug/alcohol programs, mental health providers, and faith communities, regularly make referrals to Nebraska AIDS Project programs.

- **Nebraska Department of Corrections** HIV Discharge Testing for Incarcerated Populations in Nebraska State Penitentiaries is a project which uses the infrastructure of Nebraska Health and Human Services HIV Prevention's Counseling, Testing, and Referral, and Partner Counseling and Referral Services (CTR/PCRS) Program as well as the Department of Corrections (DOC) medical staff. Nebraska AIDS Project (NAP) case management staff, and the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) Disease Intervention staff (DIS) provide referral, care, and case management follow-up to individuals identified as HIV positive. The program offers testing to an estimated 1,900 inmates per year who are leaving state correctional facilities. This also has an impact on the spouses and/or partners of these individuals in the general community. All inmates are screened at intake for HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis. All identified HIV positive inmates receive additional laboratory testing, referral to infectious disease consultant as needed, and counseling and medication are provided by the Department of Corrections throughout incarceration.

Major tasks of this project are: 1) to provide oral mucousal HIV antibody testing to any inmate requesting testing prior to discharge; 2) to identify HIV positive individuals prior to discharge; 3) to provide trained DIS to identify partners who may have come in contact with HIV through an HIV positive individual; 4) to provide case management services for referrals to medical care, support services, etc., prior to discharge; and 5) to identify the rate of infection of incarcerated individuals leaving state correctional facilities in Nebraska.

Nebraska AIDS Project (NAP) currently provides case management services, including discharge planning, to those that are eligible. NAP has also made a significant impact by collaborating with the Department of Corrections to enhance the care of inmates living with HIV. Every effort is made at discharge to provide referral to an infectious disease consultant, a clinic, NAP, or available community agencies for assistance. Education and prophylaxis items are available at discharge and a two week supply of medication is provided by the Department of Corrections.

- **Nebraska Health and Human Services** Departments that collaborate with the HIV Prevention Program include Surveillance of Communicable Diseases; Office of Women's Health; Office of Minority Health; Office of Public Health; Office of Rural Health; Office of Mental Health; Substance Abuse and Addiction Services; Office of Family Health; Office of Economic and Family Support Services; and the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.
- **Regional Mental Health / Substance Abuse Networks** Jurisdictions for the provision of mental and substance abuse services have been established statewide. These networks oversee the provision of public and private services for more effective dissemination of information and coordination of services. Each year the relationships between the regional networks and HIV prevention efforts become stronger. Because these providers offer a continuum of services, from prevention education and information to out-patient and in-patient treatment, as well as services to at-risk populations and those infected that continue to engage in risk behaviors, their involvement with community planning has been crucial. Representatives from regional networks sit on most regional advisory groups and referral and coordination among providers around HIV issues has increased dramatically. A significant increase in collaboration among HIV prevention providers and substance abuse providers has been noted with many of these agencies developing policies to address HIV issues and providing in service training for their staff. Mental health services statewide, in general, have not been as open to address issues of HIV as the substance abuse providers, citing mental health / confidentiality concerns. The Lutheran Family Services network has clearly shown their commitment and support through membership on community planning groups, participation in community AIDS awareness, and willingness to provide services to clients on sliding fee scales. Commitment has also been seen among private practice therapists and counselors who often see HIV impacted individuals and their families for therapy as well as provide support group sessions at reduced rates, or no fee, for their services.
- **Ryan White Title II and Title III Services** Ryan White Title II case management services are provided by the Nebraska AIDS Project through a subgrant with Nebraska Health and Human Services, the state Title II grantee. Through case management, qualified clients are able to access other Title II services, such as: housing, utilities, food, and transportation assistance to HIV POSITIVE clients. HIV positive Ryan White Title III services are provided through the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha and Western Community Health Resources in Chadron, Nebraska.
- **Title X** Title X Family Planning programs are available in a number of locations statewide and provide comprehensive reproductive health care with focus on prevention to both men and women. Many family planning clinics have become the source of primary care for women with lower incomes or limited health insurance. Most have written or verbal collaboration agreements with HIV prevention resources in their area or with the state to ensure HIV / STD prevention messages and risk reduction skills are incorporated into the standard of care. Informational mailings are forwarded to these programs regularly for the management of HIV infections and all CTRPN counselors are required to participate in mandated update training yearly. Reproductive service agencies are routinely invited to participate in workshops, training, or conferences sponsored through HIV providers and vice versa.

- **University/College Health Centers**, such as the University of Nebraska- Lincoln, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Concordia University, Hastings College, and Wayne State College have taken leadership roles on their respective campuses to educate students about HIV issues. Student Health Centers on each campus provide a variety of public health services. Students utilize peer networks to provide up to date information and promote HIV / STD counseling, testing, and treatment. Many of these students have organized peer training units that provide information to area schools. These training units have also partnered with local gay / lesbian / bisexual organizations to host community events.

**The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) HIV Clinic**, located in Omaha, Nebraska, is made up of physicians, fellows, a clinic psychiatrist, nurse practitioners, nurses, nutritionist, and social workers who provide services to persons living with HIV and AIDS, their family members, and loved ones. The UNMC HIV Clinic operates with a treatment team approach, assessing each client's individual needs. The HIV Clinic provides a flexible schedule to maximize availability to clients.

The UNMC Ryan White Title III Program provides HIV testing, counseling, and education; general laboratory tests including CD4 counts and viral load testing; TB testing; nutritional consultations; oral health care; ophthalmology; mental health care; substance abuse intervention and treatment; and translation services. The program works closely with the Nebraska AIDS Project case managers to identify and enroll eligible clients into the Ryan White Title III Program. The UNMC Title III Program has expanded its primary care services to hold clinics in Grand Island and North Platte on a regular basis. The staff also works with the statewide rural nursing network. The UNMC HIV Clinic/Ryan White Title III Program serves all Nebraska counties other than the western section or the Panhandle area of the state and southwestern Iowa.

- **Western Community Health Resources Ryan White Title III EIS Program**  
Western Community Health Resources (WCHR), located in Chadron, Nebraska, is the Title III EIS (Early Intervention Services) grantee for the eleven counties in the panhandle area of Nebraska. WCHR, through its network of 22 Ryan White Title III contract providers, offer comprehensive early intervention services to HIV infected persons living in the Panhandle and surrounding area. The services offered under the Ryan White Title III program include primary out-patient medical care, dental care, out-patient mental health care, out-patient substance abuse treatment, nutritional consultations, HIV counseling and testing, and other specialty health care services. Quarterly HIV clinics are held at Panhandle Community Services Health Center (PCS) in Gering, Nebraska. During the quarterly HIV clinics, clients receive medical care from an infectious disease specialist, dental care, nutritional counseling, medication adherence counseling, and social case management.